

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

(By Senators Stollings, Foster, Jenkins, Tucker, Laird, Miller  
and Prezioso)

[Originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study how tobacco-related taxes can be used for innovative research and discovery needed to address West Virginia's tobacco problem and increase the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center's competitiveness for National Cancer Institute designation.

Whereas, West Virginia has the highest consumption of tobacco in the United States and the fourth highest cancer mortality in the nation, including 3,800 smoking-related deaths and over 9,000 residents diagnosed with cancer annually; and

Whereas, It is estimated that a tobacco tax increase from West Virginia's current levels to the national average for state excise taxes will generate over \$100 million in additional annual revenue for several years. Every state that increases tobacco taxes has experienced increases in revenue with simultaneous reductions in tobacco use. West Virginia spends \$7 million on smoking prevention and cessation, while less than one percent is used for cancer-related research. West Virginia can optimize effective tobacco

1 prevention while discovering and testing new therapies for those  
2 already stricken by tobacco related cancers; and

3       Whereas, Every state bordering West Virginia, except Kentucky,  
4 has at least two National Cancer Institute designated centers.  
5 Funding of efforts to further prevention discovery, diagnosis and  
6 treatment discovery, and innovative tobacco cessation clinics will  
7 increase the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center's competitiveness  
8 for National Cancer Institute designation. The WVU Mary Babb  
9 Randolph Cancer Center is the only nationally recognized tobacco  
10 cessation research program in West Virginia. National Cancer  
11 Institute centers attract high quality researchers and clinicians.  
12 Research grants and economic development and investment in research  
13 will expedite a National Cancer Institute designation assuring that  
14 West Virginia will benefit from cancer prevention, improved health  
15 outcomes and a lowered economic burden of health care for our  
16 state; therefore, be it

17       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18       That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
19 requested to study how tobacco-related taxes can be used for  
20 innovative research and discovery needed to address West Virginia's  
21 tobacco problem and increase the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer  
22 Center's competitiveness for National Cancer Institute designation;  
23 and, be it

24       *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and

1 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2012, on  
2 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts  
3 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;  
4 and, be it

5 *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
6 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
7 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
8 Government and Finance.